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Identical letters dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the baseless allegations made in the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/454) and a similar letter addressed to the Secretary-General, I should like to convey to you the following information:

After more than four years of crisis, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has proven the soundness of its position and its understanding of the events unfolding in Syria. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Syrian Government has rejected any interference in its internal affairs and asserted its right to stand firm in the face of an unprecedented crisis in international relations in which certain States, first in secret and then brazenly, have trained, armed and financed terrorists of various nationalities, and then dispatched them to Syria to wage a brutal war of terror against that country's very existence. Incredibly, the States that now claim to be shedding tears for the Syrian people are the very same States that, since the beginning of the crisis, have striven to establish working groups, both within and outside the United Nations, and have submitted provocative draft resolutions to the Security Council with a view to covering up the crimes of variously-named terrorist groups, shuffling the cards and turning the situation in Syria into yet another of the world's geopolitical conflicts. Those States have used various pretexts to justify their actions, including the protection of civilians, the humanitarian situation, the use of chemical weapons, chlorine gas and, now, so-called barrel bombs.

All the resolutions adopted by the Security Council since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, namely, resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), have reaffirmed the Council's strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Nonetheless, the States that drafted and signed the above-mentioned letters have completely disregarded that obligation, which is clearly stipulated in those Security Council resolutions. It is also made abundantly clear by the fact that, since the beginning of the events in Syria, those States have turned a blind eye to the policies of the regimes and Governments of the countries that caused the crisis, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey and Israel. In addition, they have blatantly disregarded the training provided by the United States of America in camps in those countries to terrorists to whom it refers to as the "armed moderate opposition", with

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the aim of later sending those terrorists across the border to kill Syrians. The failure of the States that submitted the above-mentioned letters to uphold the relevant Security Council resolutions is also made clear by their utter disregard for Israel's brazen links to terrorist organizations, including the Nusrah Front and others, operating in the occupied Syrian Golan that are complicit in the abduction of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force peacekeepers. They also turn a blind eye to the fact that some 2,000 members of those terrorist organizations have received hospital treatment in Israel, which then returns them to the area of separation so that they can continue their terrorist activity. It is therefore ironic that, in addition to the above-mentioned States, the letters were also signed by Israel.

The question that presents itself is how do the three States that submitted the letters view the fact that the United States Central Intelligence Agency is spending $1 billion annually on terrorist training in order to create an army of 10,000 terrorists to kill Syrians and destroy that country's infrastructure? How can those three States justify the provision to terrorists of the mortar shells and rockets that fall daily on civilians in Damascus, Aleppo and other Syrian cities? Moreover, how do they explain the facilitation by the terror-supporting Turkish regime of the smuggling of oil, gas and antiquities; the support provided by that regime to terrorist groups launching attacks on Syrian border towns; the fact that that it has handed over official border crossings to those groups; and, under the pretext of providing humanitarian aid, that it has supplied them with arms, including such indiscriminate weapons as mortars? In that connection, we underscore that thousands of civilians, most of whom were women and children, have been killed in terrorist bombings and by mortar shells fired by armed terrorist groups on Syrian cities.

The letters fail to mention the massacres, beheadings and mutilation of corpses committed by armed terrorist groups, or those groups' destruction and looting of archaeological and historical sites, the antiquities from which they sell in order to obtain funds and weapons. The letters also do not mention the targeting by those groups of the various components of Syrian society, thereby threatening Syria's very social fabric, or their destruction of Syrian State infrastructure, including State medical, educational and social service facilities, and of public and private property, as has been comprehensively documented in United Nations reports.

The letters demonstrate political bias, partiality and an unprecedented degree of hypocrisy because they overlook the destructive role played by certain States from the Arab world, the region and beyond. Those States, in the service of their destructive agendas and narrow interests, are exploiting the situation in Syria by fomenting and fuelling violence and recruiting foreign terrorist extremists and mercenaries from 100 United Nations Member States with the goal of undermining security and stability in Syria and partitioning the countries of the region. The letters also fails to mention the violations committed by some of the States that signed the letters of Security Council resolutions, including, in particular, resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1624 (2005), 2133 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

The campaigns against the Syrian Government have a very clear purpose, namely, to tarnish its image, distract attention from its fight against terrorism and target both the Syrian Government and people. The three States that submitted the letters are members of the European Union, which is distorting events in Syria and

punishing the Syrian people for rallying around its Government by imposing unilateral coercive economic measures in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.

In line with its constitutional obligations, the Syrian Government is taking all possible measures to protect its people from the crimes that have been perpetrated for more than four years by terrorist groups in various parts of Syria. It is ironic that those States that deny Syria's right to combat terrorism in its territory are the very same States that, from thousands of miles away and on the pretext of fighting that very same terrorism, have established international alliances on Syrian territory. We would like to underscore that, in its efforts to combat terrorism, the Syrian Army is committed to upholding international law and is doing everything possible to avoid casualties among civilians, who are being deliberately used by terrorist groups as human shields. This is one of the key factors that has prolonged the crisis and prevented the Syrian Army from eradicating terrorists in a number of areas in which they have been active. Moreover, the Syrian Army, like other armies, including those of the States that signed those shameful letters, uses conventional weapons to combat terrorism.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its resolve to continue combating terrorism and to defend its people, in accordance with its constitutional duties. It calls upon the Security Council and the Secretary General to condemn the policy of applying double standards in the fight against terrorism and to take stern measures against armed terrorist groups and their State sponsors.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations